

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 12-15 are pending. Claim 2 has been amended in this response. No claims have been canceled, and no new claims have been added. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 12-15 will be pending, therefore, upon entry of the above amendments.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U. S. Patent No. 7,141,416 (“the Krutzik patent”) in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,545,758 (“the Sandstrom patent”), U.S. Patent No. 5,922,617 (“the Wang patent”), and U.S. Patent No. 7,709,248 (“the Yamatsu patent”). Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 of the present application, as amended herein, is patentably distinct from the Krutzik, Sandstrom, Wang, and Yamatsu patents for at least the following reasons.

Claim 2 has been amended herein to further distinguish that claim from the prior art references of record. In particular, claim 2 has been amended to recite, in relevant part:

. . . a biochip cartridge comprising: (i) an optical disc comprising a first and a second substrate and a selective wavelength reflection film disposed on the first substrate, the first substrate having one or more substantially circular lands and grooves formed thereon, the second substrate having one or more depressed portions formed therein; and (ii) at least one or more biochips each comprising bio-cells spotted on the second substrate and forming an array having a substantially square or rectangular shape; wherein: the at least one or more biochips are installed in each of the depressed portions . . .

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Claim 2 has also been amended to recite, in relevant part:

. . . an optical pick-up device comprising:
a light receiving unit comprising one or more light sources and one or more light detectors; wherein: light from the one or more light sources is reflected by the reflective coating of the selective wavelength reflection film of the biochip cartridge and is

detected by the one or more light detectors to obtain tracking and focusing signals for the optical pick-up device; and light from the one or more light sources causes the one or more biochips to emit a fluorescent signal that is detected by the one or more light detectors;

a focusing/tracking controlling unit for controlling a focusing and tracking operation of the optical pick-up device using the tracking and focusing signals from the first light detector, so that the light from the one or more light sources tracks along the one or more lands and grooves of the biochip cartridge

Applicants respectfully note that none of the prior-art references of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a biochip cartridge and an optical pick-up device having the above-recited features. For example, none of the prior-art references of record teach or suggest a biochip cartridge comprising, in relevant part, a first substrate having one or more substantially circular lands and grooves formed thereon, and a second substrate on which bio-cells of a biochip are spotted; in combination with an optical pick-up device comprising, in relevant part: a light-receiving unit in which light from one or more light sources is reflected by the reflective coating of the selective wavelength reflection film of the biochip cartridge and is detected by one or more light detectors to obtain tracking and focusing signals for the optical pick-up device; and a focusing/tracking controlling unit that controls, focuses, and tracks operation of the optical pick-up device using the tracking and focusing signals beam received by from the first light reception means detector, so that the light from the one or more light sources tracks along the one or more lands and grooves of the biochip cartridge.

Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that claim 2 of the present application is patentably distinct from the prior-art references of record in view of the above amendments

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and remarks. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 (and claims 4, 6, 7, and 12-15 which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance in view of the above amendments and remarks. A notice of allowability, therefore, is respectfully requested.

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